

State of California • Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Conservation  
**Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources**  
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**State Water Resources Control Board**

May 23, 2018

Mr. David Albright  
United States Environmental Protection Agency—Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

### **MAY 2018 UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

Dear Mr. Albright:

On February 28, 2018 the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) (collectively, the State) provided the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) with an update on the State's compliance status on class II injection wells identified to be permitted for injection into potentially non-exempt Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDW). As we agreed, the State will continue to provide US EPA with periodic updates on our review of Aquifer Exemption (AE) proposals.

The Division continues to work in coordination with the State Water Board and the appropriate regional water quality control boards (Water Boards) to develop AE proposals. In our previous update, we noted that there were 28 AE proposals the State had determined to have merit. The following summarizes the current status of these 28 AE proposals:

- Eight proposals are complete and have been approved by the US EPA;
- Two proposals have been submitted to US EPA for approval (San Ardo and McCool Ranch, and Poso Creek);
- One proposal is being readied for submission to US EPA (Lynch Canyon – Lanigan Sand);
- Five proposals have been made available to the public for comment and the State is in the process of responding to comments (Arroyo Grande, Cymric, Kern Front – Chanac, McKittrick, and Sespe);
- Four proposals are being prepared for public comment (Edison Phase 1, Jacalitos and Coalinga, Lost Hills Phase 1, and North Belridge); and
- Ten proposals are under review by the Water Boards or being supplemented by the Division.

The Division and the Water Boards are in regular coordination and discussion on the ten proposals under review. Estimated completion dates for these reviews are noted in the enclosed table.

The Division continues to address existing approvals for wells to inject into USDWs where data to support an aquifer exemption is not currently available and has secured voluntary

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relinquishment from almost all the operators except for a few. For the few operators that have yet to relinquish their permits, the Division is working with the Department of Conservation, Legal Office to issue orders formally revoking their approvals. As mentioned in prior updates, injection is not occurring in any of the identified wells of concern.

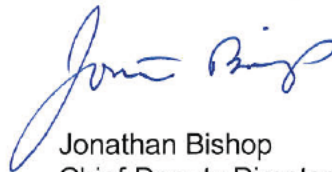
The Division is using this opportunity to inform you that it will not be able to provide US EPA with the monthly "Searchable Database" of Underground Injection Control (UIC) projects as it has done since March 2017. On April 30, 2018, the Division deployed Release 2 of the WellSTAR database. With this release the database source for the "Searchable Database" will be retired and all data will be incorporated into WellSTAR. While WellSTAR will have a public portal for all data contained within the system, including UIC projects, this functionality will not be available for public use until Release 3 of WellSTAR. We are currently on schedule for Release 3 to be available in October 2018.

We believe that our progress continues to demonstrate the State's commitment to protecting public health and the environment while avoiding unnecessary disruption of oil and gas production. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr. Ken Harris at (916) 323-1777, or [Ken.Harris@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Ken.Harris@conservation.ca.gov) or Mr. Jonathan Bishop at (916) 341-5619 or [Jonathan.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely



Kenneth A. Harris Jr.  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources



Jonathan Bishop  
Chief Deputy Director  
State Water Resources Control Board

Enclosure (1)